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WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year ending 31st December, 1952

WALTON--LE--DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
BAMBER BRIDGE.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Year ending 31st December, 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

In accordance with the desires expressed by the Ministry of Health and the County Medical Officer of Health an attempt has been made to complete this Report at an earlier date than in past years. It should, however, be stated the tardiness in the production of the report in former years was due in its entirety to the late date on which the vital statistics were received from the Registrar General's Department. These were usually received about the middle of the year and, as these figures were not infrequently inaccurate and had to be returned for correction, it was usually not possible to complete the report till the autumn or even later.

Certain changes are being put into force in 1953 in connection with the recording of deaths in institutions which will make it more difficult to present accurate mortality figures for the district, and with the changes which are already in force with the recording of deaths from certain forms of diseases, it will be difficult to prepare scientific statistics comparable with those of former years.

It was emphasised in the two preceding reports that since the inauguration of the National Health Service Act certain sources of information were no longer available, and as a result it has been increasingly difficult to assess the amount of morbidity in the district. The type, the intensity, the quality, and the extent of disease can only be guessed, it cannot be assessed, because reliable scientific figures are no longer available. But, as in

/past

past years, the local branch of National Insurance has supplied figures which do something to bridge this gap in information. These figures, it is true, only relate to the insured population and to the extent which they make demands upon Insurance funds, but also do indicate the periods required for recovery and absence from work. Grateful acknowledgement is here made to the local manager for his co-operation and help in this matter.

As in past years, this report contains the statistics supplied by the Department of the Registrar General and those supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health relating to the district. The main portion however deals with the work of the Health Department for the year under review, and endeavours to present some of the details of work which are necessary to preserve the communal health. To broaden the picture and to enhance the perspective the work of other departments of the Council must be considered as these play an important part in the preservation of health by the improvement of environment and by the provision of water. Therefore as in past years' reports - short summaries of the work of the Water Engineer and of the Surveyor - are appended. Weather conditions are important, and extracts from the annual report of Dr. Barocas of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory Preston are also included.

The year 1952 was a year of slightly less than average rainfall but much less than its predecessor.

So far, however, as information was available or could be ascertained, the standard of health in the district in the period under review was maintained. An epidemic of Measles produced many cases but the disease was mild in type, very infectious, but without any serious after effects. Scarlet Fever also occurred in larger numbers than usual and reached almost epidemic form not only in this district but in the surrounding ones. The cases first appeared on the bus routes and slowly progressed to other parts of the area. The type of disease was mild which made it all the more difficult to control. Undoubtedly there were many cases which were never reported, nor recognised, due to this mild type of illness. The important part which cases of Tonsillitis play in the epidemiology of Scarlet Fever is well recognised and in the outbreak of 1952 it doubtless played a prominent part. Missed or undiagnosed cases plus the infections from cases of

/Tonsillitis

Tonsillitis were quite prominent factors in the spread of Scarlet Fever in 1952. In past years strict measures, perhaps sometimes too rigid, were used to endeavour to control outbreaks of Scarlet Fever. In retrospect it would be difficult to state that the object aimed at was attained, but it would be equally difficult to disprove that the type of disease was not thereby reduced in virulence. It can only be a matter for surmise the extent to which the rather lax methods with which Scarlet Fever is now isolated and treated contributes to the increased numbers of cases which have occurred. The casual manner in which notification is made, sometimes a week or more after the case has occurred, gives very little opportunity to take steps to prevent the spread of the disease. It would be unfortunate if the work of past generations to control the disease, in spite of its rigidity, became lost, and the disease, once again became the originator of those unpleasant and debilitating after effects so common in the past. The question must be asked and faced as to whether our methods of dealing with this disease have not now swung too far over towards laxity of control.

Chicken Pox was made notifiable in the district for a period of six months in order to provide a barrier against Small Pox which had occurred in parts of Lancashire comparatively adjacent. Careful investigations and checks were made on all cases notified especially in the older ages.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified showed a welcome decrease, particularly those of the Respiratory type which were approximately one third of the previous year. The mortality also was one third. A complete survey has been made of all the cases still on the register in this area and some details of this survey will be found in the section under the heading of Tuberculosis. In every country in the world where statistics are kept, deaths from Tuberculosis form one of the major causes of Mortality. In England and Wales however the ages at which deaths from this disease occur in males have steadily risen and now stand at the 55 to 65 age period, whereas in females the age period shows a slight reduction to the 20 - 25 group. In most countries where records are kept females in the early teens appear to be especially susceptible, and the general hygiene of the home as well as the familial and social environments are

/important

important factors. In view of these facts, established in many countries, the present tendency to consider cases of Tuberculosis as diseases of the individual rather than as potential infectors of immediate contacts cannot be too strongly deprecated. The survey in this district has shown that all too frequently the infection has been conveyed to another member of the family. The methods of the past three decades, tried and improved by experience, to treat the disease as an environmental one, were founded on sound scientific knowledge and facts. Recent advances in methods of treatment, though valuable are as yet insufficient to make it possible to disregard the well tried experiences and methods of former years.

There were no cases of Diphtheria reported in the district so it is obvious that the campaign of Immunisation carried out so vigorously in past years still remained effective. There appears however to be lessened desire on the part of the parents to have their children immunised. It would be unfortunate if lack of care for the children's welfare encouraged the return of Diphtheria.

Fortunately also there were no cases of Poliomyelitis, but one case of Meningococcal Meningitis occurred.

The district was free of any cases of food poisoning though some mild ones may have occurred and not been reported.

As in past years constant vigilance was exercised over food. Where there was any doubt about the quality or purity of any food, fresh or tinned, there was no hesitation in seizure and condemnation. In doubtful cases bacteriological examinations were made and in some cases tests for mineral poisons. The food bye-laws have proved useful, but much education and much practical training are required to encourage the population generally in sound hygienic methods of the storage, handling, and cooking of foods. The production of a cheap, reliable refrigerator, free of tax, would be most useful in the homes of the people.

Continual sampling of milk was continued throughout the year, though with the reduced staff it was not found possible to take as many samples as in the previous year. The bacteriological tests showed a definite improvement upon those of the former year, and the tests for the Tubercle Bacillus revealed fewer positive samples. Some of the

milk delivered from the Milk Marketing Board, during the period of alterations there, required frequent sampling, and strong representations were made to the various Governmental Departments concerned about the delay in the completion of the repairs and about the methods of collection of the milk from the farms.

Samples were taken of ice cream during the months of busy sale, and these were examined bacteriologically. The results showed an improved purity. Ice lollies were also examined and the results were satisfactory. All the establishments where these products were sold or manufactured were visited and where any defects were observed, the owners were advised upon the best methods for correction.

All the environmental services of the Health Department were continued throughout the year the details of which will be found in the body of the report and in Mr. Corbishley's appended report. The various tables given indicate the great progress which has been made in the hygiene of the district over the last five decades and the improvement in health which has resulted.

The efforts made by the Council in the years since the last war to overtake the demand for homes by the provision of new houses were continued in 1952. The greater number of houses allocated to the area in this year has enabled the number of applicants still on the housing lists to be materially reduced. The question of the housing of aged persons must be kept in view especially as the number of persons in the later years of life is steadily increasing, and assuming greater proportions in the total of the whole population. The time is fast approaching, if indeed it is not already at hand, when the three score years and ten can no longer be regarded as a ripe old age, but rather as the inception of the period of age. The usually accepted ages of retirement (Male 65 Female 60) require review, for many persons of this age are strong, healthy, and active, and whilst they may not be able to keep pace at work with the younger ages their experience and craftsmanship should still find a very useful niche in industry. For the really aged the provision of small easily worked houses is still a problem. A community site near to shops, near to bus stops, on the level, and properly planned with a central hall and with one of the district nurses housed on the same site would appear to be ideal. It is a mistake to place older

people in a housing site where they are continually disturbed by the noises of family life.

Many visits were made to factories and workshops in the area particularly those where in the previous year's survey defects were found and recommendations made for improvement.

The statistics supplied by the Registrar General showed that the birth rate was lower than in 1951 and the death rate was also lower due probably to the comparative absence of Influenza during the year. Deaths due to Diseases of the Heart showed a small decrease but deaths from Malignant Diseases were much greater than in 1951.

The Infantile Mortality Rate showed an increase (there were six deaths compared with five) from 21 to 29. Two thirds of these deaths were in the first four weeks of life or at birth. The Maternal Mortality was again nil.

The estimated population of the district showed a slight increase.

In the early part of the year Mr. Baron, who had been the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent, for so many years, retired on superannuation. During the long period with which he was connected with the district he had seen many changes in the general hygienic state of the area. To those changes and improvements he had contributed a high degree of competence, hard work, and service. His extensive theoretical knowledge of his work was added to a sound practical experience and a desire to do what was best for the district.

To his strong will and firm convictions he added geniality and a sense of humour. His colleagues wish that he may enjoy a long and peaceful retirement.

Physical Characteristics of the Area

The district is quadrangular in shape with an average width of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles East to West and a length of $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles North to South. The land slopes gently from South East to North West. In the South East the height is 260 feet, falling in the North West to 25 feet above sea level.

The River Ribble forms the northern boundary for a distance of about two miles and is tidal in almost all that length.

The River Darwen flows through a valley in the northern part of the district and joins the Ribble at the North Western boundary of the area.

Geologically the district lies on Triassic sandstone upon which are placed a lower boulder clay layer, a layer of drift sand, and an upper boulder clay layer. The base of rock forms an inclined plane which dips downwards toward the sea. Outcrops of this rock are found in the beds of the Rivers Ribble and Darwen. In the boulder clay layers, stone of varying sizes are found, most of these are Lakeland in origin brought down by ice movement or by ice melting. In the Drift Sand layer there are deposits of gravel. As a rule the layers of Glacial Drift fill the valleys leaving the hill tops free.

The thickness of the various layers shows variation in depth in the different parts of the district; towards the western side the three layers are approximately 100 feet in thickness, but in most parts of the district the Upper Boulder Clay is 10 feet, the Drift Sand 9 feet and the Lower Boulder Layer 2 feet upwards.

The island formed between the two rivers contains large alluvial deposits which provide a rich soil for market gardening.

Social Conditions and Amenities of the Area

The district is partly industrial and partly residential. Cotton manufacture, engineering, market gardening, dairy farming and corn milling comprise the main industries.

In the area there are eleven churches, with attached Sunday Schools, covering most types of religion. Many Church Halls are associated with the Churches and in these halls, particularly in the winter months, lectures, concerts, dramatic society meetings, plays, debates and dances are held.

There are nine clubs in the district, some political, some religious, and others non-sectarian, where games such as billiards, darts, dominoes, etc., can be played. A tennis club, a table tennis club and a cricket club also are sited in the area.

On the playing fields, five in number, football and cricket are played in the proper season and there are three football clubs.

A Dramatic Society encourages the arts in the district and there is a flourishing Debating Society.

Excavations made by the local Archeological Society close to the junction of the Darwen and the Ribble have yielded many portions of Roman pottery and other evidences of that period of occupation, and these relics are displayed in the Council Offices and the Library in Station Road.

There are four local branches of the County Council Library sited throughout the district.

Meteorological Conditions

For the information given in this section, the report of Dr. Barocas, of the Jeremiah Horrocks' Observatory, Preston, by permission of Mr. Tuson, Chief Education Officer, Preston, and that of Mr. Blossom and Mr. Parkinson, of the Meteorological Station at Hutton, have been consulted, and the statistics quoted are from those two stations.

The amount of rain fall in 1952 was 36.42 inches which is 1.12 inches less than the average, and 8.83 inches less than in 1951. Rain fell on 210 days, 13 days more than the average, and as usual August was the wettest month. On August 9th 1.58 inches of rain were recorded and on August 7th 1.08 inches of rain fell in less than an hour during a thunderstorm. This was the week end when Lynmouth experienced its disastrous flooding. During this week end $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain fell in the hills North of Preston.

February (so called "Fill Dyke") was the driest month of the year and its rainfall was less than half the average for that month.

In 1952 the Winter and Autumn quarters were drier than usual whereas the Spring and Summer quarters were wetter than average. The rainfall during the Summer quarter was one third of the total for the year.

The longest dry spell was between November 24th and December 2nd

Although the average daily temperature was only 0.8° F. lower than the average for 40 years, generally speaking 1952 could be considered a cool year. The Spring was

/warmer

warmer than the usual but Summer and Autumn were colder than average. May had a mean temperature 3.8° F. warmer than usual and on May 17th the highest temperature of the year 80.7° F. was reached. September on the other hand was colder, -5.5° F., - than the average. July as usual was the warmest month of the year and January the coldest. The lowest temperature of the year 13.1° F. was on January 27th.

November was a cold month with snow and frost, the average temperature being almost 5° lower than the average.

Ground frost occurred on 93 nights mostly in the first two and the last two months of the year and airfrost on 73 days.

On 67 days fog was present but only 3 of these days were classified as thick fog (i.e. the visibility less than 44 yards).

Gales were experienced on 7 days in the year. On December 17th the wind reached a force of 75 miles per hour and trees were uprooted in many parts. Some of the gusts of wind, worst between 10 a.m. and noon of that day, reached an even higher velocity. On 9th and 10th August the wind reached 60 miles per hour, and with the heavy rain, a high tide and the strong wind caused flooding, though not extensive, in Walton-le-Dale.

Table of Weather Summary, 1952

| Month | Rainfall Inches | Number of Rain Days | Sunshine Hours | Prevailing Wind Days |
|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| January | 3.58 | 21 | 49.7 | W. 7 |
| February | 1.29 | 13 | 75.0 | W.7 Calm 9 |
| March | 1.77 | 12 | 96.1 | S.E.7 N.E.7 |
| April | 3.07 | 18 | 126.0 | S.E.5 S.W.5 Calm 6 |
| May | 2.01 | 16 | 185.1 | S.6 N.W.6 |
| June | 3.55 | 15 | 164.7 | W. 13 |
| July | 1.90 | 18 | 132.5 | W. 11 |
| August | 5.73 | 17 | 138.8 | S.W. 9 |
| September | 4.69 | 19 | 90.6 | N.E. 9 |
| October | 2.64 | 20 | 91.6 | W. 6 |
| November | 2.27 | 16 | 71.3 | N.E.7 N.W.7 Calm 9 |
| December | 3.92 | 25 | 26.7 | N.W.5 Calm 8 |
| Totals | 36.42 | 210 | 1248.1 | ————— |

When this table is compared with that shown in last year's report it will be observed that the total rainfall was nearly nine inches less and that rain fell on 210 days instead of 220. In spite of the reduced rainfall and the number of days on which rain fell there were actually 73 hours less sunshine. The reduction in the number of days on which winds from the south west, west and south, the wet quarters, blew in 1952 will also be noted. The number of days -32- without wind bears some relationship to the number of days with foggy conditions.

Statistics

| | |
|---|---------|
| Area in Acres | 4,761 |
| Population (census 1931) | 12,718 |
| Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1951) | 14,750 |
| Number of inhabited houses (census 1931) | 3,314 |
| Number of inhabited houses (rate book 1952) | 4,594 |
| Rateable Value | £73,211 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £290 |

/Vital

Vital Statistics

Live Births:-

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|----------|-------|
| Legitimate | 100 | 99 | 199 |
| Illegitimate | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 103 | 101 | 204 |
| Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (mid 1952) | | crude | 13.8 |
| Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (mid 1952) | | adjusted | 13.1 |

Still Births:-

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Total | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births | | | 24 |
| Comparability factor for births | | | 0.95 |

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Total | 4 | 2 | 6 |

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age (Neo-natal deaths):-

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Total | 3 | 1 | 4 |

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

Infantile Mortality —

| | |
|---|-----|
| All Infants per 1,000 live births | 29 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 29 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | Nil |

Neo-Natal Mortality —

| | M | F |
|---|----|---|
| Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age | 3 | 1 |
| Mortality rate per 1,000 live births | 20 | |

/Deaths

Deaths:-

Male Female Total

95 96 191

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude) 12.9

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted) 14.1

Comparability factor for deaths 1.09

Maternal Mortality:-

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion Nil

Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births Nil

Death rate per 1,000 population from Cancer 2.92

Death rate per 1,000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 0.07

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil

Comparative Table

| | Per 1,000 of Population | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--|------------------------|
| | Live Birth Rate | Crude Death Rate | Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis | Death Rate from Cancer |
| Of 5 years, 1946/50 | 18.0 | 11.2 | 0.25 | 1.65 |
| Year 1951 | 16.2 | 13.8 | 0.13 | 1.9 |
| Year 1952 | 13.8 | 12.9 | 0.07 | 2.92 |
| Increase or decrease in 1952 | | | | |
| On 5 years average 1946-1950 | -4.2 | +1.7 | -0.18 | +1.27 |
| Previous Year | -2.4 | -0.9 | -0.06 | +1.02 |
| Lancashire | 14.34 | 12.24 | 0.20 | 2.01 |
| England and Wales | 15.3 | 11.3 | 0.24 | N.A. |

| | Maternal Mortality Rate | | Infantile Mortality Rate |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Per 1,000 Live Births | Per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births | |
| Of 5 years, 1946/50 | 2.25 | 2.34 | 39 |
| Year 1951 | Nil. | Nil | 21 |
| Year 1952 | Nil | Nil | 29 |
| Increase or decrease in 1952 | | | |
| On 5 years average 1946-1950 | -2.25 | -2.34 | -10 |
| Previous Year | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Lancashire | N.A. | 0.83 | 30 |
| England and Wales | N.A. | 0.72 | 27.6 |

/Comment

Comment has already been made upon these statistics but the low figure of the Infantile Mortality Rate is commendable, it can only be attributed to years of hard work at the Welfare Centres where correct methods of baby management have been taught, and the young mothers of today are benefiting from what their mothers learnt at those Centres in the past.

Analysis of Causes of Death, 1952

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Diseases of the Heart— | | | |
| Coronary Disease—Angina | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| Hypertension with Heart Disease | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Other Heart Diseases | 12 | 16 | 28 |
| Diseases of the Circulation (other) | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Vascular Lesions of Nervous System | 10 | 17 | 27 |
| Bronchitis | 10 | 8 | 18 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | — | 2 | 2 |
| Influenza | — | 1 | 1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 1 | — | 1 |
| Tuberculosis (other) | — | — | — |
| Malignant Diseases (all sites) | 24 | 19 | 43 |
| Diabetes | — | 2 | 2 |
| Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum | 2 | — | 2 |
| Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea | — | 1 | 1 |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | 2 | — | 2 |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate | 1 | — | 1 |
| Congenital Malformations and Prematurity | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Other defined and ill-defined Diseases | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 1 | — | 1 |
| All other accidents | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Suicide | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | 95 | 96 | 191 |

A table is given below showing some comparative figures over the last sixty years. Six decades are given.

Tables of Six Decades

| Period | Per 1000 Population | | | Enteric Fever | |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------|--------|
| | Birth Rate | Death Rate | Phthisis Death Rate | Cases | Deaths |
| Ten Years | | | | | |
| 1891-1900 | 30.8 | 18.9 | 1.25 | 133 | 27 |
| 1901-1910 | 26.3 | 14.7 | 0.95 | 116 | 21 |
| 1911-1920 | 18.7 | 13.7 | 0.91 | 54 | 5 |
| 1921-1930 | 16.0 | 12.0 | 0.72 | 7 | 0 |
| 1931-1940 | 14.0 | 12.7 | 0.44 | 5 | 2 |
| 1941-1950 | 16.5 | 12.28 | 0.33 | 0 | 0 |

| Period | Diphtheria | | Scarlet Fever | | Deaths from | Infantile Mortality Rate |
|-----------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|-------------|--------------------------|
| | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Diarrhoea | |
| Ten Years | | | | | | |
| 1891-1900 | 46 | 16 | 211 | 15 | 122 | 188 |
| 1901-1910 | 98 | 15 | 291 | 16 | 58 | 128 |
| 1911-1920 | 166 | 16 | 565 | 11 | 46 | 107 |
| 1921-1930 | 66 | 5 | 310 | 0 | 11 | 64 |
| 1931-1940 | 47 | 3 | 414 | 0 | 5 | 56 |
| 1941-1950 | 27 | 1 | 280 | 0 | 6 | 42 |

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There was only one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1952 compared with two in the previous year and there were no deaths from the Non-Pulmonary forms of the disease.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia. The number of deaths from each of these diseases showed a reduction upon that of the previous year.

Cancer. Once again an increase in the number of deaths from all forms of Malignant Disease is shown. With a population which contains increasing numbers of older

/people

people the number of deaths from all forms of Cancer must be high. Twelve of these deaths were caused by Cancer of the Larynx, Bronchi or Lungs and this particular site of the disease shows a remarkable increase in the number of cases. There is strong presumptive evidence to associate cancer in these sites with the use of tobacco especially cigarettes, but there is also evidence that atmospheric impurities such as soot and sulphur dioxide play a not unimportant part in the causation of these conditions. Petrol fumes, burnt or unburnt, would appear to have a deleterious effect also.

Of the twelve deaths which occurred in this district, an enquiry was made into each case with a view to ascertain if any of these adverse influences had a material bearing upon the causation or fatal issue.

It was not found possible to trace any relatives of one male case so in this instance no information could be obtained. Of the remaining eleven ten were males. The one woman was a non-smoker, a housewife and not exposed to any industrial fumes other than those in the atmosphere.

Of the ten men all of them smoked tobacco in one form or another but one had not smoked for four years before death and another for one year before decease. Both of these were in the main pipe smokers but the former also smoked cigarettes. One male smoked only 10 cigarettes per day and all the others more than twenty cigarettes per day. Half of these males used matches and the other half petrol lighters.

None of them was exposed at work to irritating or injurious fumes.

One only lived on the outskirts of the district but all the others lived in the more congested industrial portions where atmospheric smoke, industrial and domestic, were most concentrated.

In England and Wales generally in 1951, the deaths from Cancer increased by over 2000, an increase greater than from any other cause. This increase was largely determined by the deaths from Cancers of the Lungs and Bronchi.

Other Causes of Death. Diseases of the Heart again produced the largest number of deaths. The remarks already made about the ageing population apply with equal truth to these deaths.

/It

It will be observed that although the busy A.6 runs through this district there was only one death from motor accident and that deaths from other accidents mainly in the home, were four times that number. As might be expected these home accidents are mainly in the aged or the very young. A reduction in these might be produced by better education but certainly would by a more intelligent regard for personal safety.

Infantile Mortality. Six deaths occurred, one more than in the previous two years, maintaining a low rate of mortality. Two of these deaths occurred almost immediately after birth, two in the first week and the others respectively at one month and $7\frac{1}{2}$ months.

| <u>Cause of death</u> | M. | F. |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Prematurity | 2 | 1 |
| Broncho Pneumonia | 1 | - |
| Spina Bifida Meningitis | - | 1 |
| Haemorrhagic Disease of New Born | 1 | - |
| Totals | <u>4</u> | <u>2</u> |

Maternal Mortality. There were no deaths associated with pregnancy.

GENERAL PROVISIONS of HEALTH SERVICES of the AREA

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health - G.G. Wray, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 Other Appointments - M.O.H. Fulwood U.D.C.
 Chief Sanitary Inspector) - Nicholas Baron, Cs.R.San.I.,
 Cleansing Superintendent) A.M.Ints.P.C. up to 1/3/52.
 Sanitary Inspector) - G.N. Corbishley, Cs.R.San.I.,
 Cleansing Superintendent) M.S.I.A. from 1/3/52.
 Student Sanitary Inspector - J.R. Williams, R.P.
 Public Vaccinator - Dr. Howard, Penwortham.
 Certifying Factory Surgeon - Dr. Logan, Leven House, Bamber
 Bridge.

/County

County Council Services in the AreaMidwifery Service

Two midwives were employed wholetime in this area. Their names, addresses and telephone numbers were:-

Mrs. Dobbie,
Chorley Road,
Bamber Bridge.

Mrs. M.L.E. Moore,
16, Lark Avenue,
Penwortham.

Tel. 85280

Tel. Preston Priory 83434

The number of cases attended by these midwives were not available and the extent to which the expectant mothers of the district use their services can only be surmised. It is known that the desire of mothers to be delivered of babies in hospitals rather than at home shows no lessening.

Ambulance Service

Two ambulances and one sitting case car were sited in the station which is part of the Council Office Buildings.

The vehicles at this station cover an area including that of the Urban District and portions of the surrounding Rural Districts. It has not been possible to obtain from the Divisional Medical Officer figures to indicate the number of patients carried from this district but about 400 per month were dealt with by the station.

Domiciliary Nursing Service

Three nurses were employed in the area to carry out the important duties of nursing in the homes. No information could be obtained of the extent to which this valuable service is utilised nor of the number of visits made by the nurses. Doubtless the service was extensively used.

Home Help Service

This service supplies personnel to assist in the homes by carrying out domestic duties where the householder by reason of age, infirmity, sickness or child birth requires such aid.

Sixteen women living in this area were available to carry out these duties but apparently each help only attended an average of one home per month in this district. Their services were not confined to the district in which they resided.

Ante-Natal Clinic

Meetings were held fortnightly at the School Clinic, Bamber Bridge. A specialist from the Maternity section of Preston Royal Infirmary was in attendance as well as the County Council Health Visitor and the local midwives. Routine inspections and examinations were made, advice given, and treatment where necessary.

Patients requiring further treatment were referred to Preston Royal Infirmary or Sharoe Green Hospital. A large number of the babies were born in hospital.

Twenty six sessions were held, 87 mothers attended on 320 occasions.

Post natively, mothers attended for advice or treatment. Ten mothers made visits on 11 occasions for this purpose.

Dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers was given at the Clinic by the School Dentist.

Child Welfare Centres

Two Centres were held in this district during the year, one at the School Clinic in Brindle Road, and the other at the Methodist Sunday School at Lostock Hall. The Bamber Bridge Centre met weekly on Thursday afternoon and the Lostock Hall Centre fortnightly on Mondays.

At each Centre an Assistant Divisional Medical Officer (Dr. Cliffe) and a Health Visitor (Miss Spenceley or Miss Kenyon) were in attendance.

Each baby in attendance was fully examined and a report made of its progress and state of health. This report card follows the child to school, so a continuous history of its progress can be maintained.

Parents attending with their babies received advice and instruction in infant care and management and simple treatment was given when required. Where more extensive treatment was necessary the babies were referred to hospital.

/During

During the year the attendances were:-

Bamber Bridge Centre

| | Individual Children | Attendances |
|--------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Under 1 year | 163 | 1,105 |
| 1 to 2 years | 97 | 119 |
| 2 to 5 years | 58 | 70 |

The centre met on 49 occasions.

Lostock Hall Centre

| | Individual Children | Attendances |
|--------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Under 1 year | 64 | 353 |
| 1 to 2 years | 37 | 42 |
| 2 to 5 years | 19 | 34 |

The number of births in the district in 1952 was 204. Of these births some 95 per cent attended one or other centre in the first year of the child's life. A small proportion of those in attendance came from the surrounding Rural Districts.

In a survey made in a large city recently it was ascertained that over 30% of the babies never attended Welfare Centres, that mothers who were good managers attended well, and that the casual type of mother i.e. those in most need of instruction, never attended.

It is gratifying to be able to report such continued keen interest in their children's welfare on the part of the parents of this district, and this is reflected in the continued low rate of Infantile Mortality.

Where for any reason the parent was unable to attend the Centre the Health Visitors visited the homes of the babies or where it was necessary to ensure that the treatment recommended was being observed.

School Medical Service

Routine medical and nursing inspections were carried out at each school in the district. In addition inspections were made at the School Clinic all through the year of children brought by parents, sent by teachers, or selected at the

/schools

schools for further investigation. The School Clinic was thus available for inspections for the treatment of Minor Ailments, for Dental Treatment and for the treatment of Eye Defects.

Minor Ailments. The conditions treated were skin diseases, ear diseases, eye diseases, and nose and throat conditions at sessions of the clinic held on Monday and Thursday mornings. School children as well as babies under school age received treatment.

Parents accompanying the children received not only advice upon the treatment required but also upon the methods of child management.

121 children of school age attended on 567 occasions.

4 children under school age attended on 14 occasions.

Ophthalmic Clinic. Held fortnightly for the treatment of defective vision and squint. Dr. Plumb of the Preston Royal Infirmary was in charge of this clinic under the County Council Scheme of treatment.

In 1952 163 children of school age attended on 289 occasions; 13 children under school age attended on 19 occasions.

Twenty one sessions were held.

Dental Clinic. Children of school age as well as those under school age were in attendance for inspection, for conservative treatment, and for extractions.

The number of school children inspected was 1,802.

Of these 926 were referred for treatment, 766 were treated and made 1,158 attendances for this purpose.

37 children under school age attended for inspection, 30 were treated on 32 occasions.

It has already been noted that expectant and nursing mothers also received treatment when necessary.

Mr. Dewhurst the School Dentist was still in charge of this Clinic.

/Orthopaedic

Orthopaedic Clinic. This was held, as in past years, at Leyland.

Children suffering from deformities or paralysis were referred to this clinic. The fitting of appliances, splints, and plasters was part of the work carried out, and remedial exercises given by the Orthopaedic Nurse formed another part of the useful work. An Orthopaedic Surgeon from Manchester attended monthly but the clinic was open each Monday afternoon for continued treatment.

Day Nursery. Opened in Cottage Lane, Bamber Bridge in 1951 was fairly well used by mothers who go to work and leave their young children there during working hours.

Three age groups:- babies, tweenies, and toddlers were accommodated.

Infectious disease in the form of Measles and Scarlet Fever hindered the work of the nursery. There was accommodation available for 50 children, and the average daily attendance would appear to be about 25.

Special Defects

Blind Children were sent to Henshaw's Blind School at Manchester or to the Blind School at Liverpool according to the age of the child.

Partially Sighted Children. These were educated at the Partially Sighted School at Fulwood. This is a residential school with a few day boarders.

Deaf and Dumb Children received their education at the Royal Cross School, Preston. This also is a residential school.

Mentally Deficient Children, after certification, became the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. The possibility of admission to an institution was a remote one. The waiting list far exceeds the number of vacancies. The higher graded types remained the responsibility of the County Council but again the accommodation available was very limited. The completion of the proposed new Occupation Centre at Chorley will ease materially this problem of accommodation for children of this area.

Epileptic Children also had limited accommodation available.

/General

General Diseases

Emphasis has been laid earlier in this report upon the continued difficulties of obtaining reliable information upon which to assess morbidity figures. On the information available it would be impossible to produce statistics of scientific accuracy.

The local Manager of the Ministry of National Insurance has however, supplied figures relating to the insured population, which enable part of this deficiency in information to be filled. These figures give the number of persons making new claims each week in the year on account of sickness or injury. The ages below and above the ages of insurance are not included.

A table below shows the weekly average in each month of the year:-

Average number of new claims per week in:-

| | <u>Sickness</u> | <u>Injury</u> |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|
| January | 62 | 3 |
| February | 61 | 4 |
| March | 40 | 5 |
| April | 36 | 3 |
| May | 27 | 2 |
| June | 25 | •75 |
| July | 22 | 2 |
| August | 27 | 1 |
| September | 29 | 2 |
| October | 29 | 2 |
| November | 40 | 4 |
| December | 42 | 2 |

The total claims for sickness benefit for the year were 1,925 and for injury benefit claims were 126.

With the exception of February and December each monthly average of claims was less than in 1951 which probably can be accounted by the absence of Influenza and Influenzal type of colds in epidemic form in 1952.

July, the local holiday month, showed the least claims.

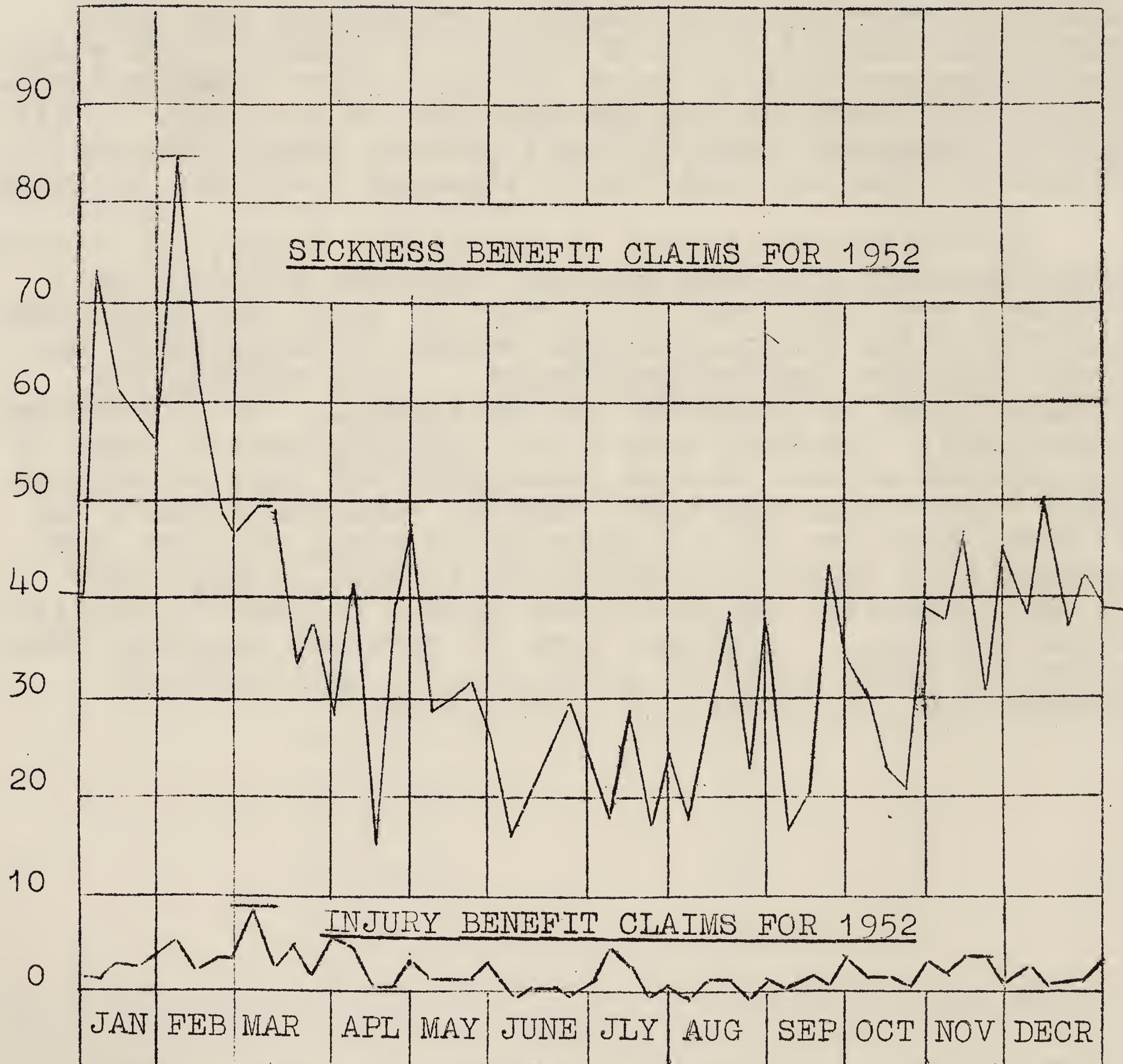
/The

The average number of days each claimant was absent from work on account of illness was approximately 30, so that to arrive at the total absent from work in any week the average number given in the table above must be increased four times.

The quarterly reports of the Registrar General's Survey of Sickness again showed in 1952 that whilst Influenza was not a potent factor in this year yet the catarrhal infections i.e. Colds, Bronchitis, etc again caused the largest group of causes for absence from work. Rheumatism was again a cause for much absenteeism and this factor was active in all the quarters of the year. "Ill defined Symptoms" characterised quite a large class of absentees from work and their illnesses were thus classified.

The estimated figures of population stress the increasing proportion of older people. In last year's report comments were made upon the extent to which the wage earning population was bearing the burden of those under and those over the ages of employment. This problem will steadily grow in magnitude in the future. It is becoming increasingly apparent that a new approach must be made to the problem of what should constitute the ages of employment. Certainly the upper limits, —60 for a woman and 65 for a man—are in the majority of cases too low, such persons have still a contribution to make to the needs of the community, and provision should be made to utilise their services. A slower pace of work and possibly fewer hours of labour might be necessary, but that need not present any real practical difficulty.

The graph given below, prepared by Mr. Corbishley, shows the local figures of sickness in the insured population.



In an ageing population those diseases which are characteristic of the declining years offer problems of the disposal of aged persons when sickness overtakes them. The hospitals are usually unable to deal with more than a small minority of the cases and those usually the most urgent. Facilities at home are often insufficient to supply the needs of those who require nursing attention. The hospital, the hostel and the home are unable to cover all the requirements and it would appear that some intermediate establishment is required where such persons could receive attention for a short period without requiring full hospitalisation.

Hospitals

The hospitals available for patients from this district where those administered by the Preston and District Hospitals Management Committee. They were:-

- (1) Preston Royal Infirmary.
- (2) Sharoe Green Hospital.
- (3) Chorley Hospital.
- (4) Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.

There were annexes belonging to this group of hospitals for continuation, convalescent, or specialised treatment. One of these—Lostock Hall Convalescent Home—is situated in this district.

All the hospitals were extensively used, for out-patient as well as inpatient treatment, by persons from this area though the extent of this use was not known as figures of attendances or lists of diseases were not available nor supplied by the hospitals.

It would therefore, be impossible to give even an approximate estimate of the amount of illness or disability for which these hospitals cater.

Outside these nationalised hospitals there was St. Joseph's Hospital, Mount Street, Preston where beds were available for Medical, Surgical, Maternity, or Special Cases.

Sufferers from Malignant Diseases received specialised treatment at the special unit at Preston Royal Infirmary staffed by personnel from the Christie Hospital, Manchester. Radium, X-ray, Isotope and operative treatments were available

/Venereal

Veneral Diseases were treated at a specialised clinic at Preston Royal Infirmary.

For Maternity cases accommodation was available in maternity blocks or beds at Preston Royal Infirmary, Chorley Hospital and Eaves Lane, Chorley. Ante-natal and Post-natal clinics were run weekly at each hospital.

The Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The hospitals available for these diseases were: Deepdale Infectious Diseases Hospital, Preston and Heath Charnock Infectious Diseases Hospital, Chorley. The number of beds available was usually insufficient. On several occasions both the above hospitals were full and it was necessary to send patients to Bolton or Southport, or even to keep them at home under conditions which were unsuitable for good isolation or for other reasons where admission to hospital was eminently desirable.

For Smallpox patients Elswick Hospital was available.

Scarlet Fever was prevalent in the district throughout the year. Cases occurred in all parts of the district though, as already mentioned, the outbreak first appeared on the bus routes. The disease was mild in type and sequelae were few or absent.

It was difficult to trace connections between the cases and it was obvious that cases of Tonsillitis were acting as infecting agents. There were "return cases" on several occasions after the patient had been discharged from hospital. Doubts must arise as to whether the period of stay in hospital is sufficient to ensure freedom from infection.

Second attacks of Scarlet Fever were reported in several cases. In most cases where a second attack was reported Penicillin had been used to treat the first attack. It must be assumed that the use of Penicillin in certain cases prevents the development of an acquired immunity.

The number of patients admitted to hospital for Scarlet Fever was 107, for Meningococcal Infection one and for Pneumonia one.

There were six deaths from Pneumonia but none from any other Infectious Disease.

In view of the prevalence of Smallpox in the area of Rochdale and the fact that some of the contacts had visited this area, Chicken Pox was made notifiable for a period of six months. All cases notified were visited and enquiries made about the source of infection.

This method of control is routine for all cases of Infectious Disease in this district. It involves much expenditure of time but it is the only way to ensure control of infection.

Disinfection of houses, books, clothing etc was always carried out in those cases where it was considered essential and this also required considerable expenditure of time.

The taking of samples of urine, faeces, food etc and conveyance of them to the laboratory takes time but must be carried out if enteric diseases and food poisoning cases are to be thoroughly investigated.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

| Notifiable Diseases | Total Cases all ages | Total Cases Notified | | | | | | | | | Total cases removed to Hospital |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| | | Under 1 year | 1- year | 3- years | 5- years | 10- years | 15- years | 25- years | 45- years | 65 & over | |
| Scarlet Fever | 146 | 1 | 11 | 36 | 71 | 17 | 7 | 3 | | | 107 |
| Measles | 205 | 12 | 47 | 74 | 62 | 5 | 3 | 2 | | | |
| Whooping Cough | 55 | 6 | 11 | 18 | 20 | | | | | | |
| Acute Pneumonia | 11 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | 1 |
| Meningococcal) Infection) | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Chicken Pox | 75 | 1 | 11 | 14 | 44 | 4 | 1 | | | | |
| Diphtheria | Nil | | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 494 | 20 | 80 | 144 | 198 | 27 | 14 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 109 |

Immunisation against Diphtheria

This is the responsibility of the County Council and delegated by them to the Health Division.

The number of children immunised in 1952 for the first time was 162 under school age and 41 of school age.

The number of children who received a reinforcement dose was 400.

Possibly some children may have been immunised privately but there were no records of these.

The beneficial effects of immunisation as a controlling agent against outbreaks of Diphtheria cannot be too highly praised. A disease which before the recent war caused thousands of deaths amongst children and was a frequent cause of serious morbidity in others, is at the present time practically non-existent. In order to maintain this beneficent state of affairs it is essential that 75% of the child population should be effectively protected by immunisation.

As the Registrar General no longer finds it convenient to supply an estimate of the child population of the district, it is not possible to give the percentage of children immunised.

Most parents appreciate fully the benefits of immunisation and the necessity for reinforcement of the protection attained in babyhood by further injections. But there would appear to be a certain amount of apathy amongst certain parents in this matter. It would be particularly unfortunate if a position gained by so much labour on the part of Public Health Departments, and so much expenditure of public money, were lost and that devastating disease of childhood—Diphtheria—once more became a menace.

Vaccination against Smallpox

This also was a County Council responsibility administered through the Health Division. In this area 77 children and 47 adults were successfully vaccinated. These figures represent a great improvement upon those of the previous year.

Small outbreaks of Smallpox continually appear usually in the areas where raw cotton from the East is used.

If the unprotected portion of the population continues to increase it will become increasingly difficult to limit these outbreaks.

Tuberculosis

The dispensary for patients from this area affected by this group of diseases was at Walton's Parade, Preston. This Dispensary was the property of the County Council and they provided the Tuberculosis Health Visitors in attendance. The Medical Staff was supplied by the Regional Hospital Board.

Inspections, examinations, X-ray examinations and treatment, medical treatment and light treatment were given at this dispensary.

In 1952 in this district individual cards of a special type were made out for each patient on the Register. It was soon obvious that many of these patients should either have been discharged as recovered or else been transferred to other classifications. Communication to the County Medical Officer of Health on this matter produced a greatly modified list.

On the register at the end of the year were 44 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 25 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis compared with 44 and 33 respectively in 1951.

There were 10 notifications in the year, 5 Respiratory and 5 non-Respiratory, and there was one death from Pulmonary Disease which had not been notified before death.

The table below gives an analysis of the notifications and of the death.

| Age Periods Years | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | 3 | | 1 | | | | |
| 25 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 35 | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 65 | | | | | | | | |
| 75 upwards | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | - | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - |
| | 5 | | 5 | | 1 | | - | |

Inspection and Supervision of Food

The poster cards recommending that animals should not be admitted to food shops have proved useful and were prominently displayed in most shops. Some members of the population have failed to co-operate but such persons appear to be a permanent minority of the population.

Full use was made of the greater powers given under the Consolidated Act of the County Council to make frequent inspections of premises licensed to prepare or sell food, and to inspect hawkers vehicles. Ice Cream which was unfortunately overlooked in the County Act, was again brought under control by the adoption of sections of the Food and Drugs Act.

Much education is yet required in the methods of the preparation and handling of food before the position can be considered even reasonably satisfactory. The washing of hands should be a routine procedure after visiting the

/sanitary

sanitary convenience. Too often however the wash basin is unsuitably placed, has only cold water, or soap or towel are not provided. Habits of cleanliness must be taught from the earliest age and it provides little hope of improvement in this respect when schools are still in existence with only one wash basin, a dirty towel, no soap, and only cold water.

These conditions are far too common and where children have the school dinners and there are no facilities to wash beforehand, the opportunity to teach cleanliness is lost, and bad habits are encouraged.

Milk and Milk Production

In the early parts of this report comments were made upon the difficulties which the present system of administration control of the methods of production at the farms has produced. Much of the supervisory work carried out in past years by local authorities to encourage clean milk production has been lost. The visits to the farms to inspect the methods of production, to give advice, and instruction are now rare events.

The Health Department, however, as in past years, devoted much time to ensure that the milk supplied to the consumers was of a reasonable degree of bacteriological purity. Samples were taken frequently and examined for bacterial content, and for Tuberculosis.

Where cases of Infectious Disease occurred at a farm and where the milk might become the carrier of infection visits to the farm must be made. Two cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at milk producing farms but as the milk was already being pasteurised, no further action was necessary. One case of Scarlet Fever occurred at a dairy and due precautions about isolation were enforced.

In 1952, there were, so far as could be ascertained, 64 dairy farms in the district, with an equal number of cowkeepers, and approximately 1,200 cows.

The number of milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) was 13, —9 in the district and 4 outside.

Thirteen dealers were licensed to distribute T.T. milk and one to bottle it.

/There

There was one pasteurising plant in the district, 16 dealers were licensed to distribute pasteurised milk and 8 to distribute sterilised milk.

During the year 110 samples of raw milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological tests. Of these 81 were satisfactory, a better percentage than the previous year. The 110 samples were respectively from producers in the district 64 samples, and the rest from producers outside this area. Of the district produced samples 52 were satisfactory, a percentage of 81 and from outside sources 29 were satisfactory with a percentage of 63.

These results were superior to those of 1951.

Thirty six samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to tests and 34 of them were found to be sufficiently heat treated.

Three samples of sterilised milk were tested and all were found to be satisfactory.

All the samples of raw milk (110) were tested for the presence of the Tubercle Bacillus. Four samples (2 less than in 1951) were found to contain the germ, 2 from producers outside the district, one from a producer in the district and one from a sample of bulk brine cooled milk at the Milk Marketing Board.

The three former samples were reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, to the Ministry of Agriculture and to the Ministry of Food.

Where the milk was not already being pasteurised, an order was issued to the producer for this to be carried out. The producer in this district received such an order.

All the pasteurised samples were free of Tubercle.

Two complaints were received about dirty milk bottles. One such bottle contained a lump of clay. The milk had been pasteurised and the small amount which remained did not contain any dangerous germs. A chemical analysis revealed that the clay was innocuous and bacteriologically it was sterile. The other bottle contained an adherent deposit of paint or varnish and a little milk. Bacteriologically the milk contained no germs of any importance, and a chemical analysis of the milk and deposit revealed no substance of a poisonous nature. The milk bottle had obviously been used to carry cellulose paint or varnish. Visits were made to

the dairy supplying the milk and observations made upon the methods of bottle washing and sterilising. The methods were good but the human element in charge of the operation inattentive and unobservant.

For the purpose of illustrating the work of the Department over the past years, the summarised table below is given:--

RAW MILKS

| Samples taken from Producers in the District | | | | | Samples taken from Producers outside the District | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------|---|--------------|-------|--------------|
| Year | Number Taken | Satisfactory | | T.B. present | Number Taken | Satisfactory | | T.B. present |
| | | Number | % | | | Number | % | |
| 1942 | 17 | 16 | 94.2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10.0 | 0 |
| 1943 | 40 | 20 | 50.0 | 2 | 18 | 8 | 44.4 | 1 |
| 1944 | 54 | 30 | 55.6 | 0 | 61 | 21 | 33.4 | 6 |
| 1945 | 37 | 21 | 59.5 | 0 | 54 | 13 | 25.0 | 5 |
| 1946 | 45 | 30 | 66.7 | 1 | 41 | 15 | 36.5 | 4 |
| 1947 | 61 | 41 | 66.7 | 3 | 55 | 26 | 47.2 | 3 |
| 1948 | 95 | 65 | 68.5 | 5 | 88 | 40 | 45.4 | 4 |
| 1949 | 100 | 85 | 85.0 | 1 | 53 | 26 | 49.0 | 3 |
| 1950 | 70 | 53 | 75.8 | 1 | 69 | 29 | 39.3 | 3 |
| 1951 | 69 | 53 | 67.0 | 3 | 76 | 31 | 40.7 | 3 |
| 1952 | 64 | 52 | 81.25 | 3 | 46 | 29 | 63.0 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 672 | 466 | 69.3 | 19 | 562 | 239 | 42.52 | 33 |

PASTEURISED MILKS

| Year | Number Taken | Efficiently Heat Treated | |
|-------|--------------|--------------------------|------|
| | | Number | % |
| 1942 | 5 | 4 | 80.0 |
| 1943 | 11 | 11 | 100 |
| 1944 | 19 | 19 | 100 |
| 1945 | 13 | 13 | 100 |
| 1946 | 14 | 14 | 100 |
| 1947 | 12 | 12 | 100 |
| 1948 | 14 | 14 | 100 |
| 1949 | 15 | 15 | 100 |
| 1950 | 21 | 21 | 100 |
| 1951 | 27 | 27 | 100 |
| 1952 | 36 | 34 | 94.5 |
| TOTAL | 187 | 184 | 98 |

3 samples of sterilised all Satisfactory (not included above)
/Milk

Milk in Schools Scheme

All the schools in the area received supplies of milk each school day. Practically all of this milk was heat treated.

Samples taken of these milks were tested and found to be free from the Tubercle Bacillus.

Tuberculosis Order 1938

The four samples of milk found to contain the Tubercle Bacillus were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture. One positive sample of the bulk supply brine cooled milk was not further investigated, it involved so many farms. The other three positive samples were investigated, and as a result no cows were slaughtered under the Order, but six cows had been removed from the herds prior to the commencement of the investigations.

All the herds were pronounced free after the completion of the investigations.

Ice Cream

As in past years strict supervision was exercised over the bacteriological purity of ice cream manufactured or sold in the district.

All the establishments in the area (6 in number) where ice cream was made were inspected and visited at regular intervals. Defects in preparation, serving, or storage were pointed out and advice given about their correction.

The number of retailers selling loose ice cream was 10. Dealers selling wrapped ice cream numbered 34. The number of manufacturers outside the district who supplied retailers in the area was 9.

The retailers were strongly advised to sterilise their utensils either by heat or by detergents and most of them carried out this advice.

The table below shows the results of the samples taken:-

| Month | Wrapped Ice Cream | | | | | Loose Ice Cream | | | | | Ice Lollies | |
|--------|-------------------|-------|---|---|---|-----------------|-------|---|---|---|--------------|--------------|
| | Number taken | Grade | | | | Number taken | Grade | | | | Number taken | Satisfactory |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | |
| April | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| May | 5 | 1 | 4 | - | - | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| June | 6 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| July | 5 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Aug. | 3 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sept. | 8 | 6 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 30 | 23 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 2 | - | - | 11 | 11 |

These results were a definite improvement upon those taken in 1951.

Meat and Other Foods

There were no cows or sheep slaughtered in this district in 1952.

Twelve pigs were slaughtered by private consumers. Notice of slaughter was given and each carcase was inspected.

Condemnation of Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The total amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption was 4 cwt. 1 quarter, 3 lbs and $6\frac{3}{4}$ ozs. This amount included almost $3\frac{1}{2}$ cwts of tinned foods (fruit, milk, meat, ham, veal and tongue) and the rest of fruit, cheese and custard mixture.

All these were surrendered voluntarily and it was not necessary to apply for a magistrates order in any case.

Food and Pure Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928

The County Council is the authority responsible for the administration of this Act. Samples were taken by the Sampling Officer of the County Public Health Department assisted by Mr. Corbishley.

/The

The County Medical Officer of Health supplied the following list of articles sampled and the results of the tests.

A total of 149 samples was obtained; of these 102 were of milk and the 47 others comprised:-

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 oatmeal | 2 jam |
| 1 fish paste | 2 compound syrup of figs |
| 1 cornflour | 1 cream crisp |
| 1 milk, condensed, full cream, sweetened | 2 liquid paraffin |
| 1 Parrish's Chemical Food | 1 borax |
| 1 milk, condensed, skimmed, sweetened | 1 cocoa |
| 2 castor oil | 1 pepper, white |
| 1 cod liver oil | 1 ice cream |
| 1 ice lolly | 2 self-raising flour |
| 3 mincemeat | 2 meat paste |
| 2 blancmange powder | 1 wholemeal bread |
| 1 lemon butter and pineapple spread | 1 unrationed fat |
| 1 plain tea cake | 2 pepper |
| 2 semolina | 3 epsom salts |
| 1 boric ointment | 2 seidlitz powders |
| | 2 fruit canned |
| | 1 arrowroot |

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:-

| <u>Sample</u> | <u>Result of Analysis</u> | <u>Action taken</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 formal milk | Deficient of 3.3 per cent. fat and low in solids-not-fat | Vendor notified |
| 1 informal milk | Deficient of 3.3 per cent. fat. | Vendor notified |
| 1 informal milk | Deficient of 10 per cent. fat. | Vendor notified |
| 1 lemon butter and pineapple spread | Contained 4.7 per cent, fat but not more than 0.5 per cent. butter fat. | Packers written re use of word "butter" on the label. |
| 1 seidlitz powder | Sample consisted of 3 powders - average weight of white packets 3.68 grams. Average weight of blue packets 11.3 grams. B.P. requirements 2.5 grams and 10 grams respectively | Manufacturer communicated with |
| 1 informal milk | Deficient of 5 per cent. fat | Vendor notified |

Water Supply

Appended to this report there will be found a detailed account of the work of the Water Department throughout the year. Mr. Whittle, the Water Engineer, gives there an interesting report not only of the water consumption but of the attention necessary to keep the supply constant in the homes of the inhabitants.

In last year's report an account was given of some of the investigations undertaken in this country and in the United States of America to determine the amount of Fluorine present in water supplies and to ascertain the quantity required to act as a preventative to the occurrence of dental caries in children.

A sample of the water supplied to this area analysed for Fluorine in 1951 showed 0.02 parts per million present. Further samples were taken and submitted to analysis in 1952 in May and December. These were taken at such wide intervals in order to determine the seasonal variation. Separate analyses also were made of the waters from Preston Corporation and from the Thirlmere supply, from each of which this district draws supplies. In the tests in the spring the Preston Corporation water was found to contain 0.06 parts per million of Fluorine and the Thirlmere water 0.08 parts. In the autumn the Preston Corporation water contained 0.04 parts per million and the Thirlmere supply 0.05 parts.

The chemical analyses of each source of supply were entirely satisfactory. There was no plumbo-solvent action and the amount of nitrates and nitrites present quite satisfactory. Free Chlorine was absent but combined present in small quantities.

Altogether 13 bacteriological tests were made and 4 chemical tests. All of these were entirely satisfactory. Four bacteriological examinations were made of private well supplies, three of these were satisfactory and one found to be contaminated.

Drains and Sewerage

The district was well sewered except for small areas on the periphery of the district. The sewage works, originally provided for a much smaller population, was overloaded but the effluent discharged into the tidal part

/of

of the river. The number of new houses built in recent years added to the overload. 63 new houses were added to the existing sewers in the course of 1952.

The extensions proposed of the sewers and the sewage works were still under discussion with the various Ministries. Meantime the cost of the scheme continually increases with the rise in prices.

In spite of the relatively wet year flooding in the low lying part of the district only occurred on two occasions and it was of a minor character confined to a few dwellings. Cellars were pumped out and the lower rooms disinfected.

The River Darwen, so frequently the cause of flooding, had considerable improvement work carried out upon its banks. This work has increased the width of the river at the top of the banks thus providing greater capacity for flood water. When this work is completed, the risk of flooding should be considerably diminished.

Closet Accommodation

During the year there were 33 conversions to water closets—29 from waste water closets and 4 from pail closets.

The table below analyses the position and indicates the great improvement which has been made in the past forty years.

| | <u>1910</u> | <u>1918</u> | <u>1939</u> | <u>1949</u> | <u>1950</u> | <u>1951</u> | <u>1952</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| No. of privy closets | 621 | 255 | 26 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| No. of pail closets | 1093 | 973 | 165 | 139 | 123 | 111 | 106 |
| No. of waste water closets | 345 | 327 | 264 | 211 | 196 | 172 | 143 |
| No. of fresh water closets | 694 | 1267 | 3670 | 4010 | 4101 | 4208 | 4318 |
| No. of houses with dry ashpits | 1499 | 994 | 51 | 49 | 47 | 47 | 46 |
| No. of houses with ashpails | 1058 | 1632 | 4012 | 4302 | 4362 | 4421 | 4486 |

Public Cleansing

Extensions of the weekly service in the district to parts where previously a fortnightly service had operated necessitated the provision of an additional wagon and extra

/staff

staff. The increased number of houses in the area added to this work. Motor vehicles were used entirely for this service. The house refuse was disposed of on the Council's tip by the controlled system. The additional land required for the extension of this tip has now been obtained but work upon it had not been started by the end of 1952.

The details of the work undertaken by this service and the amount of salvage collected will be found in Mr. Corbishley's Report which is appended.

Sanitary Inspections

The number of inspections made in 1952 was 2219 some 400 less than in 1951. In the course of these visits 416 defects or nuisances were discovered of which 364 were abated. 231 informal notices were issued and 40 statutory.

In addition 36 visits were made to shops for the Lancashire County Council under the Shops Act, 1950.

Included amongst the list of inspections were 1406 visits to 620 houses for housing defects.

These inspections of whatever type, demand a large expenditure of time not only upon the part of the Sanitary Inspector but also upon the Medical Officer of Health where statutory action has to be taken.

The number of defects found under the Public Health Acts was 416 and of these by the end of the year 364 were abated.

It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings in any case in the year under review

Details of these inspections will be found in Mr. Corbishley's report.

Bakehouses

All the bakehouses were inspected during the year. Any defects found were remedied as a result of these visits. It was not necessary to take formal action to remedy any defect.

On the whole their condition was satisfactory in the period under review. Several visits were made to one shop where it was hoped to revive the bakehouse which had fallen

/into

into disuse during the war and required structural renovation.

Factories

Many visits were made to the mills and factories in the district to ascertain if the recommendations made at the survey in the previous year had been completed. Many of these recommendations were in operation but others had not yet been completed owing to delays inherent to the permit system. Certain minor improvements were suggested on these visits and most of them were adopted. In all 24 visits were made to these factories.

Playing Fields

These were available in Higher Walton, Lostock Hall, Gregson Lane, Walton-le-Dale and Bamber Bridge. All were well used particularly by the younger members of the community.

Housing and Housing Conditions

The number of new houses erected in the district in 1952 was 64. Of these 41 were erected by the Council, and 21 by private enterprise. Two of those erected by the council were flats.

The number of applicants on the housing list was approximately 250 which was a reduction in number when compared with 1951.

The number of houses in course of erection by the Council at the end of the year was:- on the Meanygate site 46 houses, 26 flats.

On Cinnamon Hill site 59 houses are in course of erection by private enterprise.

The number of dwelling houses inspected for defects during the year was 620 necessitating 1406 visits.

Three houses were found to be unfit for human habitation and demolition notices were served on these, one of which was demolished by the end of the year. 44 houses were found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and 36 of these were rendered fit as the result of informal action. On 7 of these houses formal notices were served and

all were rendered fit by the owners. One large house was turned into 3 flats.

The amount of overcrowding was relieved somewhat in the district though it still existed. In the absence, however, of a complete housing survey reliable information of this problem was not available.

The scheduling of clearance areas, which was in abeyance during the war and since the end of the war, was towards the end of the year no longer regarded as an absolute prohibition. Certain collection of houses in the district unsuitable for individual demolition would be suitably dealt with as clearance areas.

Thirteen houses, 3 council and 10 others were found to be infested and all of these were successfully disinfested.

The number of houses disinfested for Infections and other diseases was 161.

There were 4 caravans in the district. These were licensed on individual application for temporary periods of twelve months.

Private Streets

The following streets were made up in 1952:- Meanygate & access road to G.P.O. Buildings, off Collins Road.

Schools

There were eleven schools in the area and the further schools contemplated were not yet in the region of practical politics. Most of the existing schools are old but satisfactory for light and ventilation with the exception of two. The washing facilities at some of these schools leave much to be desired and provide poor practical demonstration of the value of cleanliness.

Overcrowding exists in most of the schools.

All the schools were inspected during the year, more than one visit being paid to some.

The urgently required increased sanitary accommodation for girls at Lostock Hall Council School had not been provided by the end of the year. This was reported upon almost two years ago. Visits were made to other schools where the

/sanitary

sanitary conveniences were deficient or defective.

All the schools were connected to the public sewers.

The School Kitchen at Lostock Hall was inspected at intervals throughout the year.

Smoke Abatement Act

During the War and the years immediately following, it was difficult to control the amount of black smoke and grit emitted from the industrial chimneys in the area. The need for production, the shortage of labour, the poor quality of coal, the machinery in need of repair or replacement all militated against the emission of a satisfactory chimney effluent.

In 1952, however, Byelaws were adopted and approved by the Ministry which allowed more effective action to be taken. Copies of these Byelaws were distributed to all the mills and factories in the district, accompanied by a letter drawing attention to this matter and a warning that stricter observation would be kept on smoke emission and action taken where necessary.

Observations, which totalled 46, were made on the 16 chimneys at the various works. Inspections were made of the boilers, the methods of stoking, the character of the fuel supplied and the type of chimney. Suggestions were made where necessary to endeavour to improve the smoke discharge. Grit tests were also made.

There were many persistent offenders in the district all of whom blamed the character of the fuel supplied. This was definitely a contributory cause in many cases, but even the worst fuel can be efficiently stoked.

A new boiler was installed at the Milk Marketing Boards premises, (this had previously been one of the persistent offenders) with a mechanical stoker, and when this came into use the improvement was notable.

The amount of fog which occurred in the winter months besides having a deleterious effect upon health, caused serious dislocations of traffic. Industrial smoke contributes its quota to the production of fog, but domestic smoke was a much larger contributor.

The reduction of smoke of all kinds in the atmosphere would prove a material factor in the search for better health. The Council agreed to the suggestion of the formation of a smokeless area.

New Legislation in 1952

Public Health (Meat) (Amendment) Regulations, 1952
 Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952
 Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) (Amendment) Regulations, 1952
 Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1952
 Adoption of Section 14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

Reports Appended

- (1) Report of Mr. Corbishley, Sanitary Inspector.
- (2) Report of Mr. Race, Surveyor and Engineer.
- (3) Report of Mr. Whittle, Water Engineer.

I desire to record my appreciation of the good work, loyalty, and co-operation of the members of the Public Health Staff.

To all the officials of the Council from whom I have obtained help and co-operation, I wish to tender my thanks.

To the Members of the Council a grateful tribute for their support, courtesy and encouragement.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

G.G. WRAY.

April, 1953

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the year 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour in preparing and submitting to you the following report for the year 1952.

Although this is the second Annual Report to which I append my name, it is the first report covering the work of the Sanitary Department which I have been responsible for.

I cannot continue however, before I refer to the retirement of Mr. N. Baron and the work he has carried out in this district during the previous 40 years.

Under the guidance and judgement of my predecessor great strides have been made in the sphere of Environmental Sanitation and what was once a district of insanitary pail closets, ashpits, and middens, has now become a district where water closets and portable dustbins exist at over 90% of all dwelling houses, a truly worthy achievement. This improvement only concerns one aspect of the work carried out by him and although much work remains to be done he has left the district in a far better condition than he found it when he first commenced.

May he enjoy a long and happy retirement.

Commencing with inspections, which give an indication of the various matters which come under our control, the following table summarises the visits to the various premises in the district.

1. General

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Water Supply | 34 |
| Drainage | 342 |
| Piggeries | 4 |
| Factories | 24 |
| Rodent Control | 27 |
| Atmospheric Pollution | 46 |
| Schools | 5 |

/Shops

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Shops | 36 |
| Tents, Vans & Sheds | 3 |
| Drains Tested | 37 |
| Closet Conversions | 251 |
| Reinspections | 166 |
| Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits | 185 |

2. Housing

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Inspected under Public Health Acts | 268 |
| Inspected under Housing Acts | 59 |
| Filthy or verminous dwellings | 27 |
| Housing Applicants | 14 |
| Miscellaneous Housing Visits | 8 |

3. Infectious Diseases

| | |
|---|-----|
| Inquiries into cases of Infectious Disease | 282 |
| Miscellaneous visits into cases of Infectious Disease | 2 |

4. Meat and Food Inspections

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Pig carcasses inspected | 16 |
| Canteens visited | 1 |
| Food Preparing Premises | 20 |
| Milk - bacteriological | 86 |
| Ice Cream | 17 |
| Unsound food | 29 |
| Miscellaneous food visits | 54 |

Closet Conversions

The work of converting waste water and pail closets has continued at a steady pace throughout the year. We have been restricted in the number we were able to convert due to the inability of contractors to complete existing contracts and difficulty in obtaining owners to sign an order for the work to be carried out. However 4 pails and 29 waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets.

The Council charge these owners one half the cost of the actual conversion, the authority for this being derived from the Public Health Act, 1936.

The closet accommodation at the end of the year was:-

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Water Closets—4618. | Pail Closets—106. |
| Waste Water Closets—143. | Privy Closets—2. |

Summary of Notices served and defects remedied
in compliance with preliminary notices.

| Notices served | Complied with | Outstanding |
|---|---------------|-------------|
| Formal | 40 | - |
| Informal | <u>231</u> | <u>6</u> |
| Totals | <u>264</u> | <u>6</u> |
| Insufficient ventilation remedied | | 3 |
| Skirting boards renewed | | 6 |
| Gutters made good | | 5 |
| Roofs and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed | | 24 |
| Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed | | 3 |
| Fireplaces repaired | | 4 |
| Floors repaired | | 11 |
| Yard pavings repaired | | 2 |
| Yard walls rebuilt | | 5 |
| Window frames renewed | | 17 |
| Perished pointing to window reveals | | 12 |
| Plasterwork renewed | | 13 |
| Worn stair cases repaired | | 3 |
| W.C. repaired or renewed | | 10 |
| W.C. Buildings | | 4 |
| Chimneys repaired | | 1 |
| Chimneys repointed | | 12 |
| Flashings repaired | | 5 |
| House walls repointed | | 6 |
| Doors repaired | | 14 |
| Drains repaired or relaid | | 161 |
| Dampness in houses remedied | | 9 |
| Dustbins renewed | | 13 |
| Accumulations of refuse removed | | 2 |
| Window areas extended to remedy Insufficient Light | | 4 |
| Miscellaneous defects | | <u>15</u> |
| Total defects remedied | | 364 |

No serious difficulty was experienced in getting the 231 houses repaired but some owners are concerned at the rising cost of these repairs and no corresponding increase in the rent paid by the occupier who has benefited.

The time has arrived when the whole question of repair to property and corresponding increase in rent should be considered. The Government has repeatedly shelved this complex problem but it is hoped that some solution will be found before very many months have passed.

/Drainage

Drainage

It will be noted that considerable attention has been paid to drainage work at various dwellings and business premises. Where notification is received of a choked drain every effort is made to remove the stoppage by "plunging" or rodding from an inspection chamber within 24 hours. Where this is not possible the owner is contacted and arrangements made to obtain a contractor to open up the drain, clear, and if necessary effect a repair.

Inspection and testing of new drainage work to existing buildings has been done at 37 premises.

Rodent Control

Due to maintained efforts during previous years the problem of rodent infestation has been considerably reduced. All business premises and dwelling houses where a complaint is received, are visited, and where any infestation is found, treated by the methods advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. It was necessary to treat 31 dwellings, 22 business premises, and over 300 visits were made for this purpose. Special attention was paid to Agricultural property and where an infestation existed the owner advised to take out a contract for extermination with the County Agricultural Committee.

The introduction of a new poison "Warfarin" now firmly established as an effective poison has eased the work of the Rodent Operator who is employed part-time on this work about 2 days each week. The annual test baiting of sewers was carried out again and found to be free from infestation. An exemption certificate was granted by the Infestation Division of the Ministry.

Food Inspection

An important aspect of a Sanitary Officials duties concerns the protection of the public in regard to the food which they consume. All food which is offered or exposed for sale must be in a sound and wholesome condition. Powers exist for food which is not up to this standard to be seized and taken before a magistrate for condemnation. Due to co-operation by shopkeepers and wholesale suppliers it was not necessary to deal in this way with the food listed below, although it was found to be unfit for human consumption. The purveyors voluntarily surrendered it to us for destruction

/and

and a certificate given in return, enabled them to obtain credit from the firm who supplied it.

| Description | Number of tins | Cwts. | Qrs. | lbs. | ozs. |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------|------|------|------------------|
| Veal and Ham | 19 | | 1 | 22 | 4 |
| Steak and Luncheon Meat | 34 | 1 | - | 26 | 9 |
| Salmon | 1 | | | | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Shrimps | 12 | | | 2 | 10 |
| Chicken | 1 | | | | 15 |
| Oranges | 6 | | | 3 | 14 |
| Gooseberries | 1 | | | 6 | 3 |
| Jam | 6 | | | 8 | 12 |
| Cherries | 55 | | 2 | 8 | 15 |
| Plums | 15 | | | 14 | 7 |
| Bilberries | 23 | | | 21 | 8 |
| Carrots | 1 | | | | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Damsons | 15 | | | 25 | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Strawberries | 2 | | | 1 | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Peas | 2 | | | 2 | 3 |
| Red Currants | 3 | | | 2 | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Sliced Beans | 2 | | | 4 | - |
| Peaches | 2 | | | 3 | 12 |
| Apricots | 3 | | | 5 | 7 |
| Egg Yolk | 2 | | 2 | 20 | - |
| | 205 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| <u>Other Foods</u> | | | | | |
| Carcase Meat | | | 1 | - | - |
| Cheese cuttings | | | | 3 | 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Ground Rice | | | | 8 | 13 |
| Butter | | | | 4 | - |
| Sandwich Spread | | | | | 4 |
| Lime Juice Cordial 1 Pint | | | | | |
| | TOTAL | 4 | 1 | 3 | 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ |

Slaughter of pigs for private consumption under Ministry of Food licence was carried out at 13 premises. Notification of slaughter was received in each case and an inspection of the carcase was made for evidence of disease. This procedure enables the owner to be satisfied that the meat is sound and wholesome before being consumed.

It was not necessary to suggest any condemnation of carcase meat or offal.

/Milk

Milk and Ice Cream

Regular sampling of these important foods has continued during the year and it is gratifying to see the improvements achieved in the purity, especially since 1946.

The standard of premises where Ice Cream is manufactured has steadily improved. There are now no producers in the district making this product by the "cold" method. All cream is pasteurised before freezing. More ice cream is made into blocks and wrapped prior to sale. This ensures that the product is sold to the public in a purer condition than if it was sold loose. A total of 17 visits have been made to these premises especially during the summer months.

Disinfections

All premises where Infectious Disease occurred other than Measles and Whooping Cough were disinfected with formalin either after removal of the patient to hospital or terminal disinfection where the patient was nursed at home.

The following summary shows the number of premises and articles dealt with.

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Dwellings | 161 |
| Parcels of Bedding | 832 |
| Beds | 208 |
| Books | 212 |

In addition 15 beds were destroyed at the request of occupiers after the death of a relative.

Verminous Premises

The number of verminous premises treated during the year, showed an increase upon the previous year, 14 as against 10 in 1951, in no instance was any serious infestation encountered

The bulk of this work was again confined to the eradication of the cockroach, and treatment included the use of insecticides, both liquid and powder.

Other vermin dealt with included bed-bugs and fleas,

/although

although the work entailed in the disinfection of premises from these vermin, was small in comparison with the former.

In all cases, re-visits are made, and where necessary, further treatments carried out, until the complete eradication of vermin is assured.

Factories Act, 1937

There are 81 registered factories in the district, 76 mechanical factories and 5 non-mechanical factories.

The following table gives in detail the number of visits and notices served to remedy defects found in course of inspection of the various factories in the district:-

| Factories | No. on Register | No. of Inspections | Notices Served |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Mechanical | 76 | 18 | 1 |
| Non-mechanical | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| | 81 | 24 | 6 |

| Particulars | Defects found | Defects remedied | Referred by H.M. Inspector |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Want of Cleanliness | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Sanitary Conveniences:- | | | |
| (a) Unsuitable | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| (b) Not separate for sexes | - | - | - |
| (c) Insufficient | - | - | - |
| (d) Other offences | - | - | - |
| Total | 9 | 8 | 6 |

Public CleansingHouse and Trade Refuse Collection and DisposalCollection

Due to the development of the district and the addition of approximately 500 houses built since the war, it was necessary to extend the Collection service by bringing into full use a fourth vehicle which had been used only intermittently. This also entailed the employment of additional labour bringing the total staff for the service up to 16. The district for the purpose of collection is divided into three areas with a vehicle and three men in each. The fourth vehicle is responsible for the collection of salvage from shops, house refuse from the farms and outlying areas, and kitchen waste. By the end of the year it was possible to arrange a weekly collection of refuse except during holiday periods when delay cannot be avoided.

Disposal

We are fortunate in having an excellent site for disposing of refuse by the "Controlled Tipping" method at Hennel Lane, Lostock Hall. This tip has been in use for the past 20 years and it has now been possible to rent a further $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres to enable us to continue with disposal for approximately a further 20 years.

Salvage

During the past 12 months the receipts from the sale of salvage has been reduced by nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ rds. Whereas in December 1951 the Council were receiving £16 per ton for mixed paper with higher prices for special grades, by early 1953 the price had dropped to £7. 10. 0 for mixed paper with corresponding reductions for other grades.

The amounts received from the sale of salvaged material is given in a table later in the report.

Meanwhile the cost of the service has increased due to rises in the cost of petrol, oil, vehicle repairs and workmens wages. Since 1948 the workmen have received an overall increase of 25/- per week.

Textiles and metal also fell in price by the end of the year.

/Summary

Summary of Analysis

Year Ending 31st March, 1953:-

| | £. | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| Gross Expenditure | 8,663. | - | - |
| Gross Income | 2,521. | 13. | 2 |
| Nett Expenditure | 6,141. | 6. | 10 |
| Population | | 14,610 | |
| No. of Houses Scavenged | | 4,594 | |
| Nett. Ann. Cost per 1,000 Houses | 1,336. | 10. | - |
| Nett Cost Per House Per Week | | | 6.15 ^d |

Comparative Cost of House Refuse Collection
for the Years 1922, 1942, and 1952.

| Year | <u>1922</u> | <u>1942</u> | <u>1952</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| No. of Houses Scavenged | 2823 | 4126 | 4594 |
| Gross Cost of Service | £2,205 | £3,044 | £8,663 |
| Salvage and other credits | <u>nil</u> | <u>£1,158</u> | <u>£2,521</u> |
| Nett cost of Service | £2,205 | £1,885 | £6,141 |

Wages of house refuse collectors and motor drivers

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Collectors weekly | £2 | £3/6/9 | £6/10/- |
| Drivers weekly | £2/16/- | £4 | £6/16/- |

The figures for the gross and net expenditure are approximate only. The adjusted figures were not available at the time of printing.

Collection and Sales of Salvage

The following table shows the tonnage and materials sold, and the amounts received for Salvage during the year, 1952:-

/Paper

| | Bales | T. | C. | qrs. | lbs | £. | s. | d. |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------------|------------|-----------|
| Paper | 2521 | 166 | 17 | 1 | 9 | 1,503. | 6. | 3. |
| Textiles | 142 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 10 | 177. | 0. | 1. |
| Ferrous Metals | | 22 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 56. | 5. | 6. |
| Non-Ferrous Metals | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 119. | 16. | 6. |
| Kitchen Waste | | 173 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 580. | 4. | 0. |
| Miscellaneous Sales | | 14 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 85. | 0. | 10. |
| Total | 2663 | 388 | 18 | 1 | 1 | £2,521. | 13. | 2. |

The Council commenced the collection of salvage in May, 1940. The following table shows the tonnage sold and the amounts received each year by the sales of salvaged materials:-

| Year | T. | C | qrs. | lbs. | £. | s. | d. |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| 1940 | 129 | 3 | 3 | 18 | 426. | 18. | 4. |
| 1941 | 194 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 828. | 10. | 8. |
| 1942 | 280 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1,148. | 5. | 1. |
| 1943 | 376 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 1,424. | 18. | 0. |
| 1944 | 463 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1,576. | 17. | 8. |
| 1945 | 491 | 9 | 1 | 11 | 1,607. | 19. | 9. |
| 1946 | 335 | 1 | 2 | 24 | 1,360. | 0. | 7. |
| 1947 | 398 | 19 | 1 | 15 | 1,685. | 19. | 1. |
| 1948 | 510 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2,211. | 15. | 7. |
| 1949 | 490 | 18 | 3 | 24 | 2,343. | 13. | 8. |
| 1950 | 412 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 2,108. | 15. | 7. |
| 1951 | 385 | 12 | 3 | 26 | 3,787. | 4. | 9. |
| 1952 | 388 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 2,521. | 13. | 2. |
| Total | 4,856 | 16 | 0 | 7 | £23,032. | 11. | 11. |

In concluding my report I would like to express my sincere thanks for the support and guidance received from the Medical Officer of Health and to the Members of the Council for their goodwill shown since my appointment.

/To

To the other members of the Health Department, Mr. J.R. Williams, Miss A. Wood and the staff of the House Refuse Service, I desire to thank them most cordially for the help received and the excellent co-operation which has existed within the Department.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. N. CORBISHLEY,

Sanitary Inspector &
Cleansing Superintendent

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

This brief report covers the period 1st January 1952 to 31st December, 1952.

1. Highways

The funds available for both classified and District Roads were again limited and no improvement or reconstruction works were possible.

Works carried out were restricted to maintenance only and authorised expenditure was:- Class I Roads (3.07 miles) £1950 or £636 per mile; Class II Roads (2.22 miles) £1330 or £600 per mile; Class III Roads (2.39 miles) £1370 or £574 per mile; and Unclassified Roads (14 miles) £7910 or £566 per mile.

2. Private Street Works

During the period the making up of the access road to the G.P.O. buildings off Collins Road was completed and a start made in making up Meanygate.

Dean Street, on which objections had been received, was withdrawn from the programme.

All the preparatory work was done for Havelock Terrace and Bridge Street, Bamber Bridge, but the Council decided not to proceed with the resolutions for making up these streets.

All the preparatory work was done, including serving of notices, for Bridge Street, Higher Walton and the objections received were referred to the local Magistrates Court.

The Minister issued a circular requesting Local Authorities to curtail their programmes and limit work to those streets where the conditions constituted a danger to health or to life and limb.

There are now 68 unmade private streets totalling about 6 miles within the Urban District (excluding back passages):-

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| St. Leonards Ward | - 15 |
| Central Ward | - 12 |
| South Ward | - 22 |
| All Saints Ward | - 5 |
| West Ward | - 14 |

/Public

3. Public Footpaths

During the period a little progress was made towards the definition of public footpaths under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949.

The preparation of the final plan, advertising for objections, etc., is to be done by the County Council.

An attempt was made by a resident to have a footpath created along the "Old Tram Road" from Gough Lane to Walton Summit, but since there had been in the past a legal action concerning the suggested footpath, the Minister declined to take action.

A suggested diversion of an overgrown and impassable footpath at Walton Summit was submitted to the Minister, but no decision given.

4. Sewerage

The Council's Main Drainage Scheme was revised by the Consulting Engineers, approved by the Council, and submitted to the Minister. Consent to proceed has not yet been given by the Minister.

Since the preparation of the revised scheme, the cost of materials and rates of wages have again increased and the estimated cost is now £143,750 (not including sewage disposal).

No housing sites have been submitted to the Minister for approval since he stated that no further house building would be permitted until the Sewage Scheme was revised, and therefore the Minister's reactions are not known.

Further progress was made in connecting septic tanks to the sewerage system and all but one of the septic tanks in Cuerdale Lane have now been abandoned and the house drainage connected to the sewers.

The scheme for extending the sewer in Hennel Lane to allow the connection of further houses was again submitted to the Minister for approval.

The construction of certain short lengths of sewers required in the Main Drainage Scheme was authorised so as to avoid delaying other urgent works.

5. Sewage Disposal

Authority was given for the replacement of the disc and chain sludge pump and the low-level sewage pumps by modern electrically driven centrifugal pumps.

Further small improvements were made at the Disposal Works in an effort to improve the poor quality of the effluent.

The effluent discharges into the River Ribble below the point reached by normal tides where the normal river flow is about 500 times the daily discharge.

6. Trade Effluent

The trade effluent notice served on the Council by the North Western Gas Board was still outstanding, no decision having been notified by the Minister.

During the period the Council gave its support to a Memorandum on Trade Effluent which was prepared by the Institute of Sewage Purification.

7. Housing

That portion of the Withy Trees Estate which was formerly reserved as part of a school site was released and planning consent given to its use for housing. The construction of the necessary roads and sewers by direct labour was begun.

Two new types of dwelling ("Bosworth" 3-bedroomed houses and "Gregory" 2-bedroomed flats) were approved for Meanygate Estate and erection of 40 houses and 28 flats was begun.

The Council made no decision concerning further sites for future housing, two suggested sites being rejected.

The lack of attention to the acquisition of sites ahead of the building programme must inevitably lead to a cessation of house building in about 12 months time.

One application for an Improvement Grant was received and approved and the construction of a scullery and bathroom at a Council house under an improvement grant was completed.

/Flood

8. Flood Prevention

The Lancashire Rivers Board's work in strengthening and raising the flood banks of the River Darwen and in re-shaping the channel continued during the year.

Additional work further upstream between Darwen Bridge and Cann Bridge is planned, and when this work is completed the village of Walton-le-Dale should be reasonably secure against flooding. The risk of overflowing of the rivers under all but most exceptional conditions should be considerably less than it was in 1946.

9. Playing Fields

The layout of playing facilities at Gregson Lane Playing Field was approved for grant-aid by the Ministry.

Preliminary work was done in connection with the proposed acquisition of a site for playing fields in Bamber Bridge.

10. Plans and Planning

During the year 165 applications (including 49 applications covering 156 houses) relating to 152 permanent buildings, etc., and 49 temporary buildings were dealt with under Byelaws, and 112 of these applications were also dealt with under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

11. Building Licensing

The licensing of building work costing over £100 to domestic buildings continued to be the Councils responsibility.

9 licences to a value of £4,070 were issued by the Council and 43 licences to a value of £36,288 were issued by the Ministry of Works.

59 licences to a total value of £86,494 were issued by the Council for the erection of houses for private occupation and one licence for a house and shop (£3,300 was issued by the Ministry of Works.

The list of outstanding applications for licences to erect private dwellings was cleared and 36 licences were offered in blocks of 6 to builders within the district.

/Civil

12. Civil Defence

The Rescue Training Programme came to a temporary halt owing to re-allocation of the responsibility for training of Wardens. This is now under Police Control.

13. Transport

The two wagons of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department ran 19,404 miles (Dodge 10,030-Karrier 9,374.) using 2,074 gallons of petrol shewing an average petrol consumption of 8.1 miles per gallon on the Dodge and 11.25 miles per gallon on the Karrier.

STANLEY RACE

A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.I.W.E.

Engineer and Surveyor

WATER ENGINEER'S REPORT

for the Year 1952

To the Chairman and members of the Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following report upon the work of the Water Undertaking and the consumption of water for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

Supply of Water

From Manchester and Preston Corporations.

Area of Supply

The Statutory Area of compulsory supply covers the area of Walton-le-Dale. In addition, supplies in bulk are furnished to Chorley Rural District Council in the Parish of Cuerden; individual supplies by meter are taken by consumers in the Parishes of Hoghton and Brindle.

/Estimated

Estimated population supplied (Registrar General's figures 1951)

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Walton-le-Dale | 14,610 |
| Gregson Lane (Brindle Parish) | 72 |
| | <u>14,682</u> |

Quantity of Water supplied

| | | |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| Taken from Manchester Corporation at both meter houses | 236,879,000 | galls |
| Consumed from pipe line en-route to reservoirs | <u>1,678,000</u> | " |
| Total Thirlmere water delivered in district | 235,201,000 | " |
| Water taken from Preston Corporation | <u>52,379,000</u> | " |
| Total quantity of water delivered in district | 287,580,000 | " |
| Total quantity of water consumed by meter outside district | <u>2,209,000</u> | " |
| | 285,371,000 | " |
| Quantity of water retained in reservoirs 31 Dec. 1952 | 816,000 | " |
| | <u>284,555,000</u> | " |
| Total quantity of water consumed by meter in district | <u>128,757,000</u> | " |
| Total quantity of water supplied for all purposes | 155,798,000 | " |
| Total quantity of water supplied per day for all purposes | 426,843 | " |
| Total quantity of water supplied per head per day | | 29.072 " |
| Total quantity of water supplied per head per day including trade | | 53.777 " |

Distribution

During the year interconnections of water mains in Chorley Road at the junction with Hennel Lane were made to increase the supply of Manchester water into the district.

The following lengths of spun iron water mains have been laid on new housing estates:-

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| 3" spun iron water mains | 302 yards |
| 4" spun iron water mains | 304 yards |

/Total

Total number of connections made to the distribution mains - 79.

The usual flushing out of watermains and the cleansing of service pipes were carried out during the year.

Total number of ball hydrants converted to valve type hydrants - 3.

Waste Detection

During the year the usual day and night inspections on all street mains and services for the detection of waste water were carried out.

The following is a list of repairs and inspections carried out during the year by the waste detection staff:-

- 1,133 inspections of houses and other property.
- 753 taps re-washed free of cost.
- 265 cisterns re-washed free of cost.
- 249 burst services were dealt with.
- 11 burst water mains were repaired.

1,236 consumers' water fittings were tested and approved for use in the Council's area.

Quality of Water

| | Parts per million |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Hardness as CaCO ₃ | |
| Carbonate or temporary hardness | 11 to 15 |
| Non-Carbonate or permanent hardness | 5 to 10 |
| Total hardness | 16 to 25 |

(b) The p.h. value of the supply varies from 7.0 to 7.5.

During the year the following samples of water were submitted for examination:-

5 for chemical examination.

15 for bacteriological examination.

In all the above examinations the supply was found to be satisfactory.

... /In .

In completing this report I wish to express my cordial thanks and appreciation to the Chairman, Councillor Lawson, and to the members of the Water Committee for their continued confidence in the administration of the Undertaking. It is also a pleasure to record with gratitude the cheerful service of a keen and enthusiastic staff.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

J. WHITTLE

A.R.S.I., A.M.A.P.L.E.

Water Engineer

